

## Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 VO-03 INSE-00 SCA-01

L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00

SIL-01 /059 W

----- 077882

R 022255Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9736

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CORRECTED COPY: PARA 1 LINE 6 CHANGED TO READ "INEQUALITY"  
INSTEAD OF "ANY QUALITY"

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJ: ILLEGAL MIGRANTS: COMMENTS BY PRESIDENCE ECHEVERRIA

1. IN HIS ANNUAL STATE OF THE NATION MESSAGE ON SEPTEMBER 1, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA REFERRED TWICE TO PROBLEM OF MIGRANT WORKERS. HE SAID, " WE PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN INTERNATIONAL FORA WHICH FORMULATED NORMS TO PROTECT MIGRATORY WORKERS. WE MAINTAIN THAT THIS PHENOMENON HAS ITS ORIGIN IN A STRUCTURE OF INEQUALITY WHICH PREVAILS ON A WORLD-WIDE SCALE. WE INSIST, NEVERTHELESS, UPON THE DEFENSE OF THE HUMAN AND LABOR RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO (WORK) IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY." SUBSEQUENTLY, IN A PORTION OF HIS ADDRESS DEVOTED TO US/MEXICAN RELATIONS, ECHEVERRIA SAID, "THERE STILL PERSISTS THE LACERATING PROBLEM OF THE PEASANS WHO CROSS OUR NORTHERN FRONTIER IN SEARCH OF WORK BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL AREAS. THE GREAT MAJORITY, HOWEVER, FIND THEMSELVES EXPOSED TO EXPOIATION AND UNCERTAINTY AND THEY RECEIVE A DISCRIMINATORY SALARY. THIS PHENOMENON, LIKE MANY OF THOSE EXPERIENCED BY OUR COUNTRY, IS FUNDAMENTALLY DUE TO THE NEGLECT OF OUR RURAL LIFE WHICH, AS WE SAID EARLIER, WE ARE ATTEMPTING

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TO CORRECT AS A VITAL PART OF OUR ADMINISTRATION'S

ACTIONS. THE SOLUTION OF THE BRACERO PROBLEM DEPENDS THEN UPON OUR OWN EFFORTS. THE PEASANTS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO A DECENT LIFE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. TO THE EXTENT (THIS IS PROVIDED) THE MIRAGE OF MIGRATION WOULD DIMINISH. BUT WHILE THIS PHENOMENON PERSISTS, WE WILL CONTINUE FIGHTING TO PREVENT OUR COMPATRIOTS FROM BEING THE OBJECT OF OPPRESSION WHICH CONTRADICTS THE MOST ELEMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. WE DID NOT COMPLETE A NEW AGREEMENT ON MIGRATORY WORKERS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE CONDITIONS PROPOSED WERE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE INTEREST OF MEXICO."

2. COMMENT: GOM OFFICIALS HAVE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS ALLUDED TO THE "LABOR RIGHTS" OF MIGRATORY WORKERS. WHILE THEY DO NOT LINK THIS CONCEPT DIRECTLY WITH MEXICAN ILLEGALS IN THE UNITED STATES, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY PROGRAM FOR LEGAL MIGRANT WORKERS THE LINKAGE IS OBVIOUS SO FAR AS MEXICO IS CONCERNED. THE EMBASSY HAS NO EXPLANATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT CONCERNING UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS FOR A NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT. WE WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM FONSEC OFFICIALS, BUT DOUBT THAT THEY HAVE ANY EXPLANATION EITHER. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN FACE SAVING IN NATURE.  
JOVA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, SREF, MX, US, (ECHEVERRIA, LUIS)  
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